

Application No. 09/825,470  
Amendment dated September 16, 2004  
Reply to the Final Office Action of June 16, 2004

**Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for managing risk related to a legal action involving a person, the method comprising:

[gathering data into a computer storage, said data relating to the person's involvement in a legal action based upon said person's status comprising at least one of: a party to a litigation, or arbitration; or a prospective party to a litigation or arbitration; or an amicus of the court in a pending litigation;]

receiving digital information into the computer storage [relating to the]identifying a person's status as at least one of: a party to a legal action and[, a prospective party to a legal action,] an amicus curiae of the court in a pending legal action[, or any combination thereof];

receiving digital information into the computer storage relating to details of [at least one]the legal action;

structuring with a processor the information received relating to details of the legal action according to [risk quotient]predetermined criteria;

generating a [risk quotient] scaled numeric value or a scaled alphanumeric value indicative of an amount of risk associated with the legal action with a computer processor operatively attached to the computer storage, [the risk quotient comprising at least one of:]wherein the [a] scaled numeric value [and a]or scaled alphanumeric value [and ]is based upon a portion of the structured information related to a legal action and the gathered data[;]; and

generating a report comprising the scaled numeric or alphanumeric value and the portion of the structured information upon which the scaled numeric or alphanumeric number is based.

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2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of generating a suggested action responsive to the [risk quotient] scaled numeric value or a scaled alphanumeric value.
3. (cancelled)
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the [diligence] report additionally comprises [the information received relating to details of the legal exposure and] actions taken responsive to the [risk quotient] scaled numeric value or a scaled alphanumeric value.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action is additionally responsive to the information received related to details of the legal action.
6. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action[s are]is directed towards reducing risk related to a legal action.
7. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action comprises commencing a litigation.
8. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action comprises entering arbitration.
9. (currently amended) The method of claim [1]2 wherein the suggested action comprises settling a legal action.

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10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the information received related to details of the legal action comprises venue for a legal action.

12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the information received is gathered electronically.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of aggregating [risk quotients]scaled numerical or alphanumerical values relating to [an entity]the person and assessing an aggregate level of risk related to multiple legal actions to which the [entity]person is [exposed]a party.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13 additionally comprising the step of calculating an average [risk quotient] scaled numeric value or a scaled alphanumeric value associated with [an entity]the person.

15. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the legal action comprises a class action suit.

16. (currently amended) A computerized system for managing risk associated with a legal action, the system comprising:

a computer server accessible with a network access device via a communications network; and executable software stored on the server and executable on demand, the software operative with the server to cause the system to: [gather data relating to a person's involvement in a legal action;]

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receive information [relating to the]identifying a person[’s status in the]as at least one of:  
a party to a legal action and an amicus curiae of the court;

receive information relating to details of the legal action;

structure the information received relating to details of the legal action according to [risk quotient]predetermined criteria; [and]

generate a [risk quotient]scaled numeric or alphanumeric value indicative of an amount of risk associated with the legal action with a computer processor operatively attached to the computer storage;[said quotient comprising at least one of:

a scaled numeric value and a scaled alphanumeric value based upon the structured information related to a legal action and the gathered data.]and

generate a report comprising the scaled numeric or alphanumeric value and the portion of the structured information upon which the scaled numeric or alphanumeric number is based.

17. (original) The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the information is received via an electronic feed.

18. (original) The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the network access device is a personal computer.

19. (original) The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the network access device is a wireless handheld device.

20. (currently amended) Computer executable program code residing on a computer-readable medium, the program code comprising instructions for causing the computer to: receive information [relating to the]identifying a person[’s status in the]as at least one of:  
a party to a legal action and an amicus curiae of the court;

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receive information relating to details of the legal action;  
structure the information received relating to details of the legal action according to [risk quotient]predetermined criteria; [and]  
generate a [risk quotient]scaled numeric or alphanumeric value indicative of an amount of risk associated with the legal action with a computer processor operatively attached to the computer storage[, said quotient comprising at least one of:

a scaled numeric value and a scaled alphanumeric value based upon the structured information related to a legal action and the gathered data.]and  
generate a report comprising the scaled numeric or alphanumeric value and the portion of the structured information upon which the scaled numeric or alphanumeric number is based.

21. (currently amended) A propagated computer data signal embodied in a transmission medium and transmitted via a communication network, said signal comprising a plurality of instructions for managing data relating to legal action risk, said instructions configured to cause a computer processor to: transmit gathered data through the transmission medium relating to a person's involvement in a legal action; receive information relating to a person's status in a legal action, receive information relating to details of the legal action; structure the information received according to[ risk quotient]predetermined criteria ; and generate a [risk quotient]scaled numeric or alphanumeric value indicative of an amount of risk associated with conducting a transaction with the person with a computer processor operatively attached to the computer storage[, the risk quotient comprising at least one of:

a scaled numeric value and a scaled alphanumeric value based upon the structured information related to the legal action and the gathered data.]

22. (currently amended) A method of interacting with a network access device so as to manage risk relating to a legal action, the method comprising the steps of: initiating

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interaction with a host computer on a communications network; transferring information relating to a legal action via a graphical user interface to an automated legal action risk management server; [and receiving a risk quotient indicative of a level of risk associated with the legal action.] receiving information relating to details of the legal action; and receiving a scaled numeric or alpha-numeric value indicative of an amount of risk associated with conducting a transaction with the person.

23. (cancelled)

24. (previously added) The method of claim 1 wherein a person involved in a legal action comprises at least one of a legal person or natural person, or a combination of both.

25. (previously added) The method of claim 24 wherein a legal person additionally comprises a governmental entity.

26. (previously added) The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action comprises appearing as an amicus curiae of the court in a litigation.

27. (currently added) The method of claim 2 wherein the risk comprises legal, regulatory, financial and reputational exposure.